AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring an appliance]] comprising:

    generating an electronic data file including configuration information; and

    transmitting [[an]] the electronic data file including the configuration information to [[the]] an appliance, wherein the appliance already has instructions stored on a storage medium thereof to reconfigure the appliance based on the received electronic data file, the electronic data file [[causing]] to cause the appliance to be automatically [[configured]] reconfigured based on the configuration information.

2. (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information [[is]] comprises configuration information in a markup language.

3. (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration information [[is]] comprises configuration information in XML.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic data file is embedded in an email, and further comprising:

    encrypting the electronic data file prior to sending it to the appliance.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

    decrypting the email after being received by the appliance.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

authenticating the email after being received by the appliance.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

checking that the email has a proper authorization before configuring the appliance.

8.   (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim [[I]] 1 further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address in response to receiving the electronic data file.

9.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

allowing the particular IP address to modify the appliance through an interactive session.

10.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

authenticating the electronic data file by the appliance.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring an appliance]] comprising:

receiving an email [[containing]] including configuration information at an appliance that already has instructions stored on a storage medium thereof to reconfigure the appliance based on the configuration information; and

reconfiguring [[configuring]] the appliance based on the configuration information.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

13   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

authenticating the configuration information.

14.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address responsive to
receiving the email.

15.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

allowing access by the particular IF address to the appliance via an interactive
menu.

16   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the interactive menu is part of a
browser.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

sending a confirmation email indicating that the appliance was reconfigured
successfully.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring multiple appliances]]
comprising:

entering configuration information using an application running on a machine;

sending an email [[containing]] including the configuration information to each of
a group of appliances at substantially the same time [[for multiple appliances; and

the multiple appliances configuring themselves based on the configuration information]].

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

encrypting the configuration information in the email.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email [[before configuring themselves based on the configuration information]]; and

reconfiguring the multiple appliances based on the configuration information after said authenticating.

21.   (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email [[before configuring themselves based on the configuration information]]; and

reconfiguring the multiple appliances based on the configuration information after said authenticating.

22.   (Withdrawn) A method of communicating with a network comprising:

receiving an email containing a user identifier; and

allowing access through a firewall of the network to an IP address corresponding to the user identifier in response to receiving the email.

23.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

authenticating the email.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

sending a confirmation email indicating that access was allowed through the firewall.

27. .   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the user identifier is the IF address.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.

29   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium which stores instructions, the instructions when executed, causing systems to:

receive an electronic data file including configuration information; and

reconfigure an appliance based on the configuration information included in the electronic data file

[[receive an electronic data file containing configuration information; and

configure an appliance based on the configuration information]].

30.	(Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:

decrypt the electronic data file.

31.	(Withdrawn) The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:

authenticate the configuration information.